

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

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## Return to Flight -- A Message From Eileen Collins Commander, STS-114

In just a few weeks, Discovery is scheduled to launch from the Kennedy Space Center. This is an important event in all our lives, not just the seven people who will fly aboard Discovery, but also the thousands of you whose work is making it possible for us to return the Shuttle fleet to space safely.

The past two years have challenged all of us to look closely at the work we do and ask 'how can I do this better?'

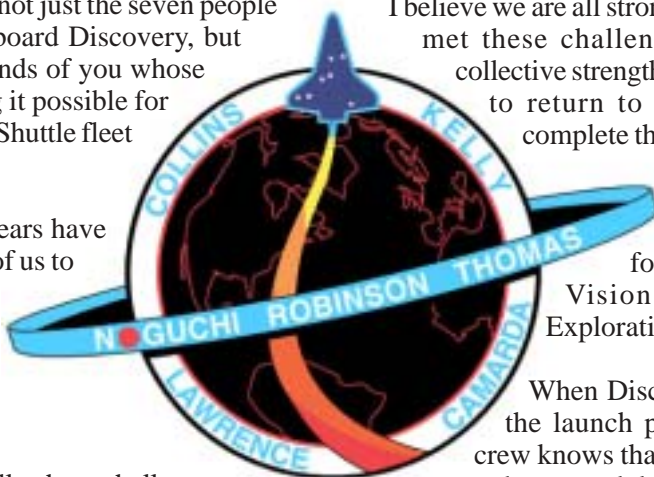
For me personally, these challenges have brought renewed strength and commitment — to my family, friends and coworkers, and to making sure I do the

best possible job I can as Commander of this mission.

I believe we are all stronger for having met these challenges, and that collective strength is allowing us to return to flight safely, complete the International Space Station, and move forward with the Vision for Space Exploration.

When Discovery lifts off the launch pad, my entire crew knows that we will carry your hearts and dreams with us.

Thank you for your creativity, your dedication and your commitment.



## Inspire the Next Generation Day

Wallops partners, NASA, Navy, Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA, will be participating in the annual Inspire the Next Generation Day on April 28.

This is a day designated to provide children with an opportunity to see women and men in a professional work environment. Participants also will have an opportunity to learn about careers in the Federal workforce.

Some work areas may not be appropriate for this activity; perspective sponsors should check with their supervisor before agreeing to sponsor a child.

Sponsors must be a government employee. Contract employees are welcome to participate with the approval of their management.

The event is open to children in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades and will begin at 8 a.m.

with registration and a welcome at the Cropper Center.

Sponsors will be responsible for transporting and escorting their children at all times on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility. Transportation has been arranged to the NOAA, Wildlife Refuge, Coast Guard and Navy facilities for the morning only.

Sponsors and children must be registered by April 15. A schedule of the day's events may be obtained from Debbie Stanley, Building E-106; Denise Gramlich, Building E-107; Pam Pittman, Building N-161; Debra Clark, (NOAA); Chris Lucero, (USCG); Angela Tracy, (Fish and Wildlife); or Marilyn Ailes, (Navy). Programs will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

For additional information or to register, contact Ed Parrott at x1681.

## Wallops Shorts..... In the News

Eastern Shore Post

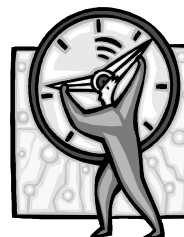
"NASA Cuts Pose Little Local Threat"

Eastern Shore News

"Black History Club Presents Awards"

## On the Road

Steve Skees, NASA Safety Office, spoke to a Senior Design Class at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va., on March 24.



**Spring Ahead  
1 Hour  
Daylight Saving Time  
Begins Sunday, April 3**

## Celebrating 60 Years of Exploration

### April 1, 1945

Wallops research station was authorized by Congress during World War II as an auxiliary base of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, (NACA), Langley Laboratory.

Wallops Flight Center was established to provide a test range for guided missile flight research, initially at subsonic speeds but with plans for extending the research into the transonic and supersonic speed ranges.

Operations under NACA continued until 1958 when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, (NASA), was created and Wallops was made a separate entity that reported directly to NASA Headquarters.

### April 1, 1947

The first Deacon rocket was launched from Wallops Island. The rocket achieved a velocity of 4,200 feet per second.

## Lightning Safety



On average, lightning causes more casualties annually in the U.S. than any other storm related phenomena, except floods. Most injuries and/or deaths from lightning strikes occur due to misinformation and inappropriate behavior during thunderstorms.

Knowing what steps to take in the event of a lightning storm could save your life.

- Plan ahead – decide in advance where to take shelter when it is necessary. If you are outside, prepare a lightning safety plan - listen to NOAA radio, commercial radio, or television for the latest weather forecasts.

- A suitable shelter is considered a sturdy non-conducting (not metal) building or the enclosed cab of a vehicle that has a metal top. Do not come in contact with any metal on the building or the vehicle.

- Watch for signs of rapid thunderstorm growth. If you can hear thunder, you are

close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning.

- If caught outside, don't be the tallest object. Don't stand in open areas.

- Don't touch anything that could conduct electricity. Stay away from wire fences and water.

- Don't ride in open vehicles or horseback.

- When lightning threatens and you can not reach a shelter, assume the "lightning safe position": crouch on the ground with your weight on the balls of your feet, feet together, head lowered and ears covered. Never lie flat on the ground.

Lightning is one of nature's most spectacular displays. Understanding the hazards of lightning, practicing safety and using common sense can prevent injury or death.

To learn more about lightning safety, contact the Wallops Safety Office at X2369.

## iTA Briefing -- March 29

The first NASA employee role out on the independent Technical Authority (iTA) will be held at 1:30 p.m., March 29 in Building D-10.

The NASA Director of iTA implementation, Walter Hussey, will be briefing employees on the importance of iTA to the Agency and its purpose to programs and projects in conducting safe and reliable operations.

All employees are encouraged to attend and participate in discussing this important topic.

## Agency Messages, Tagline and Visual Design Guide Roll-out

On March 30 from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. the Strategic Communications Group will present important elements to enhance our Agency's communications effort. Key messages and a new visual design standard for our communications materials have been developed to help deepen and reinforce the public's understanding of NASA.

The presentation will be available electronically via Webex. For access information, go to <http://communications.nasa.gov>

## Lunch & Learn (Brown Bag Lunch) "Mind Your Own Mind"

March 29

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Williamsburg Room – Bldg. E-2

## Retirement Planning At Any Age

April 26 and 27

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Building E-104, Chincoteague Room

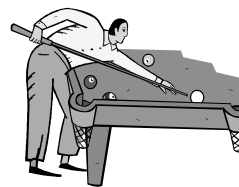
The course is designed to highlight the benefits available under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).

Contact: Susan Castleberry at x66-6118. Additional information may also be obtained at:

<http://ohrcoursecatalog.gsfc.nasa.gov/search/description.cfm?course=52>

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of  
**Weldon Bowden**  
who died March 26  
at his residence on  
Chincoteague Island, Va.  
Bowden retired from NASA Wallops Flight Facility as a motor technician in the M-Area with over 40 years of government service.

## Double Elimination 8-Ball Tournament Scheduled for April 1



Has been cancelled due to a conflict with other events on that date.

For further information, contact: Rob Cass at x2376 or by email: [robert.cass.1@gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:robert.cass.1@gsfc.nasa.gov)

## Ladies Day for IRAs

Ladies! You are cordially invited to visit the NASA Federal Credit Union, Wallops Island branch on April 11 to celebrate "Ladies Day for IRAs".

Stop by to get important information on the benefits of adding an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to your financial portfolio and receive a free 24-page Personal Financial Planning Guide. Plus enter to win a basket of bath and beauty products!

Join us on April 11 to find out how an IRA can augment your Retirement Planning. For further information contact Bonnie Broadwater at x2380.



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